

# Drawing to Save Our Forest



Drawings by school children from age 7 to 14 years old  
December 2013

## OUR FOREST, GREEN PLANET!

### Cambodia REDD+ Programme

Organized and Supported by



UN-REDD  
PROGRAMME



# PREFACE

## REDD+ Drawing Competition: Our Forests, Green Planet

Forests are critically important for life on this planet – not just the lives of wild animals and plants, but also for human life. While the food we eat mostly comes from farms, in order to produce all that food, the farmers rely on a plentiful and regular supply of water. Where forests are abundant, this is normally not a problem, but when forests are lost, the supply of water is much less regular and predictable. So, as Cambodia loses its forests, the regular supply of food becomes less and less certain.

Forests also supply other benefits, not just for those living in and around forests, but for all of us. Valuable materials like bamboo and rattan come from forests, as do many medicines. Landscapes with forests are very attractive to tourists, and tourists require transportation, hotel rooms, and food, and buy souvenirs, thereby providing income for many Cambodians, including those who live far from the forests.

While standing forests provide many benefits, when forests are lost there is a high price to pay. Besides losing the regular supply of water to farms, when forests are lost, soil erosion accelerates dramatically and destroying forests contributes to the global problem of climate change.

Why then, if forests are so important, has Cambodia been losing forests so rapidly in the last few decades? Answers to that question are actually quite complex. The perceived financial benefits of using forest land for other purposes and a short-term view of many entrepreneurs are some of the reasons. But equally important is the fact that many in Cambodia do not fully understand the importance of forests.

In order to raise awareness among the general public of the importance of protecting forests, and of a new international mechanism called “REDD+”, which reduces the impact of global climate change by protecting forests, the REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat organized a drawing competition in November, 2013. The competition was open to Cambodian schoolchildren in two different categories: 7-11 years old, and 12-14 years old, and was co-sponsored by Smart, Cambodia’s leading mobile telephone company.

48 children from more than nine different schools participated in the competition. It proved to be an event that showcased the impressive talents of many schoolchildren, as the drawings were of a very high quality. This book reproduces all of the drawings. We hope that readers are equally impressed with the quality of the drawings and gain inspiration from the talents of the schoolchildren to contribute to the protection of Cambodia’s forests.

We hope that readers will want to learn more about how to help in protecting Cambodia’s forests. To learn more, please visit the Cambodia REDD+ website at [www.cambodia-redd.org](http://www.cambodia-redd.org), or email the REDD+ Cambodia Taskforce at: [redd.secretariat@cambodia-redd.org](mailto:red.d.secretariat@cambodia-redd.org)



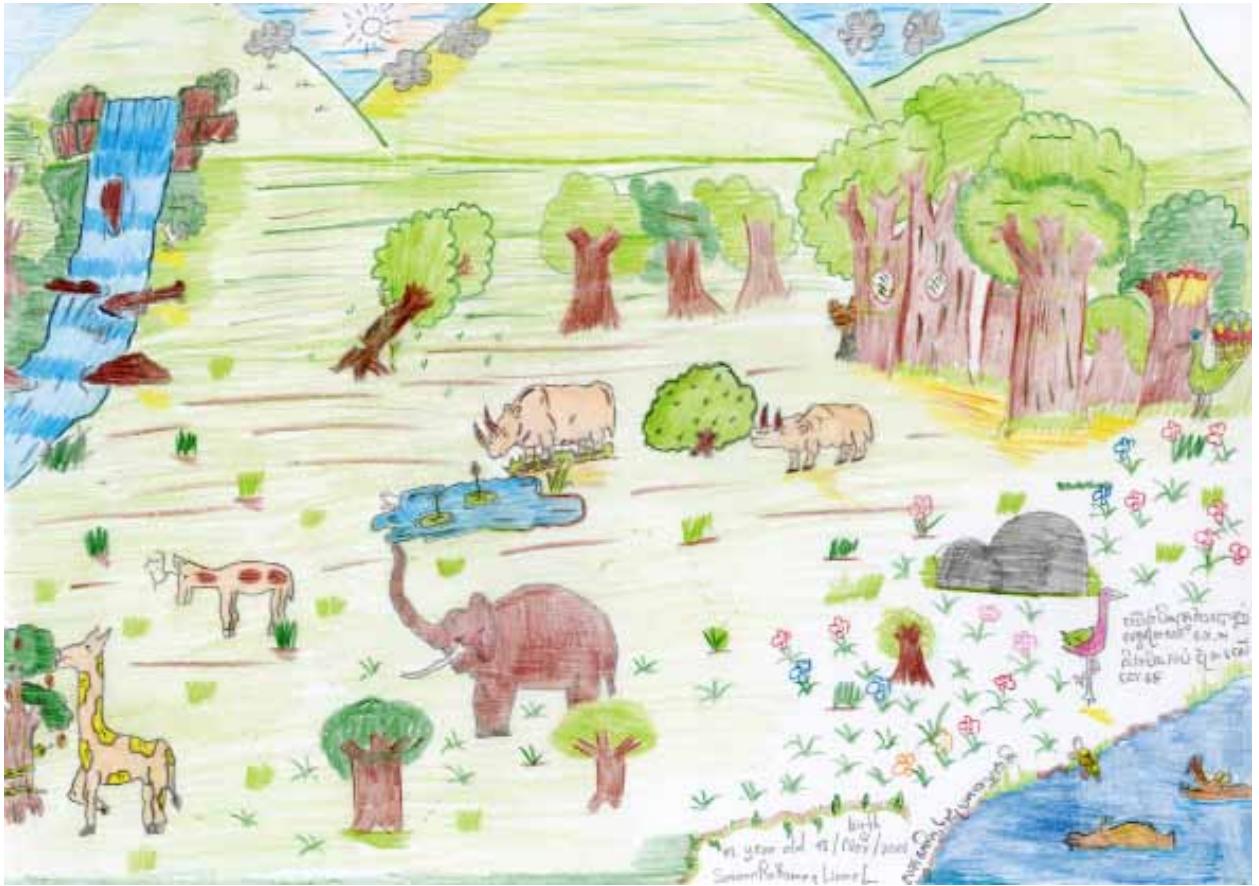
**Cambodian SchoolChildren  
From 12 to 14 Years Old**



Sothea Aphirith, 13 years old, studies at ICAN school.  
He is one of the kids from Sovann Komar Center.

## **Sothea Arphirith, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner**

Hi! My name is Sothea Aphirith. I'm 13 years old and I'm studying at I Can school. I want to be an elite doctor in the future. I love wildlife, and I love protecting forests and nature.



Sovann Raksmeay Lionel, 12 years old  
He lives in Sovann Komar, an orphaned organization.

## **Sovann Raksmeay Lionel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner**

My name is Sovann Raksmeay Lionel. I'm 12 years old. I'm a 5th grader at Beltei Chbar Ampov branch. My mom's name is Oeng Veasnanimol. I have 6 brothers and sisters. I live at Sovann Komar village, House of Tror Baek Prey. I was born on November 18th 2001, in Takeo province. When I grow up, I want to be an artist and a professional football star along with my friends.



Nheb Channat, 13 years old, studies at Toul Tom Pong high school.

## **Nhet Channat, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winner**

My Name is Nhet Channat. I'm a 13-year-old girl and currently a 7th grader at Toul Tompoung high school. I'm one among the many who is living in and supported by Aziza's Place.

During the Drawing Competition on November 13th at Small Word, I chose elephants, mountains, and forests as my subjects because I love our nature, the wildlife, and the forest. In the future I want to help protecting them.



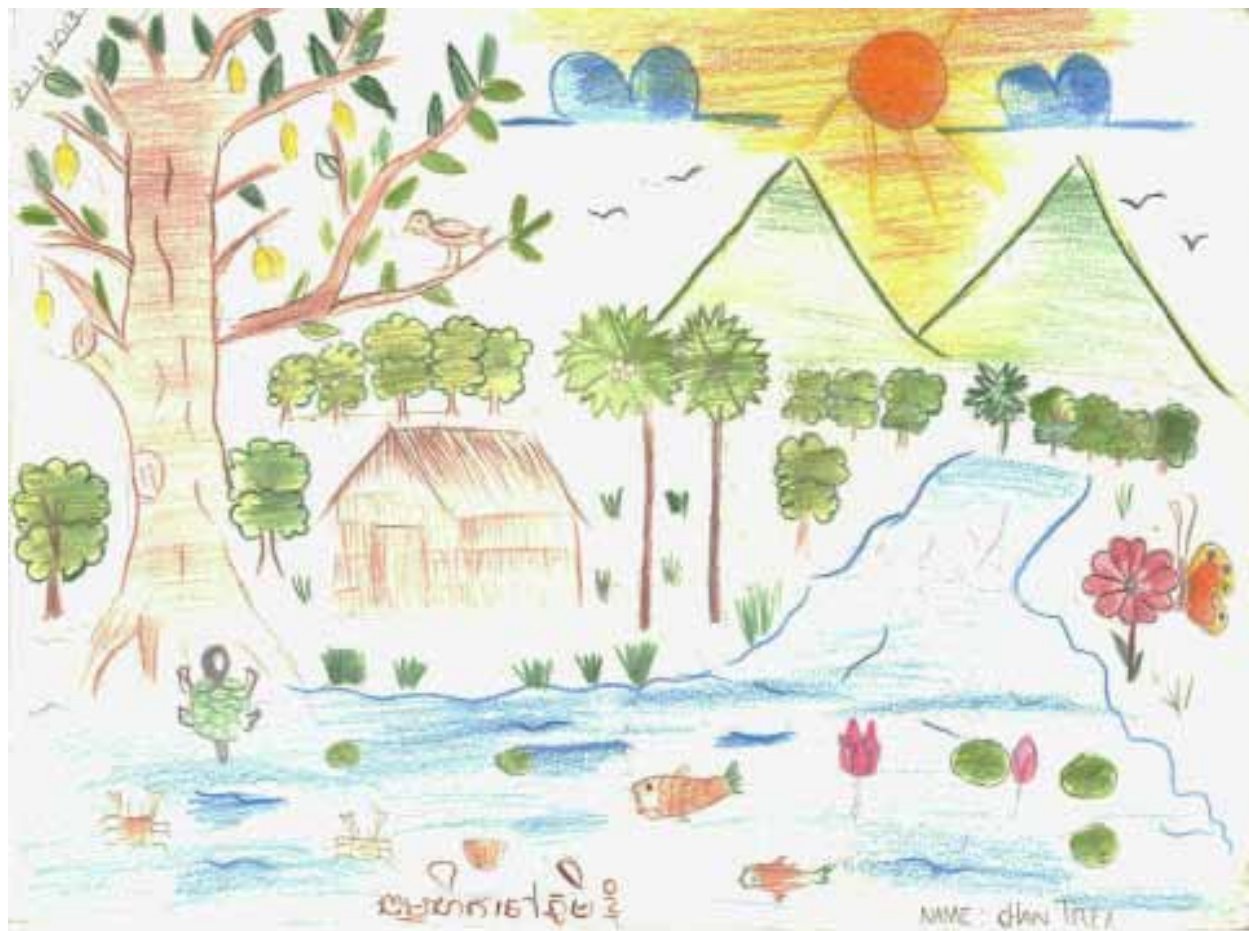
Sok Srey Kong, 14 years old, is from People Improvement Organization.



Seat Srey Net, 14 years old, is from People Improvement Organization.



Sok Lita, 13 years old, is from People Improvement Organization.



Seam Chantrea, 11 years old, is studying at Wat San Som Kosal from People Improvement Organization.



Kao Somaly, 14 years old, is from People Improvement Organization



Soeun Rachana, 11 years old, is from People Improvement Organization.

*“Forest degradation is changing our life. We need to protect our traditions, lifestyle, and customs for the next generation,” said one representative of the Indigenous Peoples’ group.*



Sovann Vireak Luccas, 11 years old, is from Sovann Komar Organization.



Mao Van Yuth, 14 years old, from  
People Improvement Organization



Ros Ratanak, 11 years old, from  
People Improvement Organization



Unknown



Unknown



Sour Sovan Panhavoin, 13 years old,  
from New York International School

*“Nature is all around my village,” said Seam Chantrea, 11 year-old schoolchild.*



Khun Rithy Pong, 11 years old, from  
Chea Sim Santhor Mok high school



Sovann Vanna Colyn, 12 years old, from Beltei International Institute and lives in Sovann Komar organization



Sovann Mathew, 12 years old, from  
Sovann Komar



Yeun Srey Sros, 13 years old, from  
Toul Tom Pong high school



Hay Rothrithya, 13 years old, Hun  
Sen Chak Angre high school



Ouch Saream, 13 years old, from  
Wat San Som Kosal primary school

*“Protecting forests and wildlife is protecting the environment,” said Sour Sovan Panhavoine, 13 year-old schoolchild.*



Sotheara Thai Yo, 12 years old, from New York International School and live in Sovann Komar organization



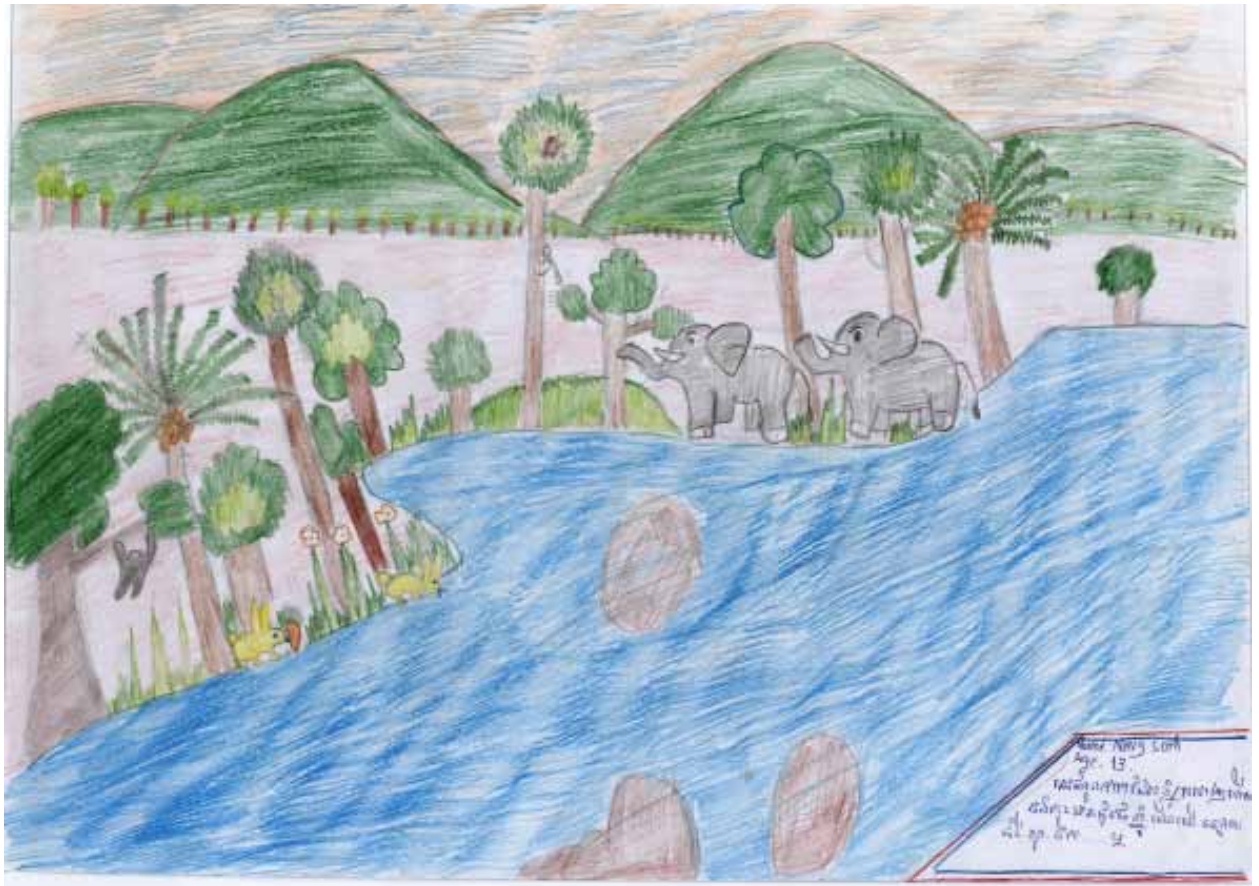
Ngoem Srey Oun,  
13 years old, from  
People Improvement  
Organization



Kvan Robis, 14 years old, from People Improvement Organization

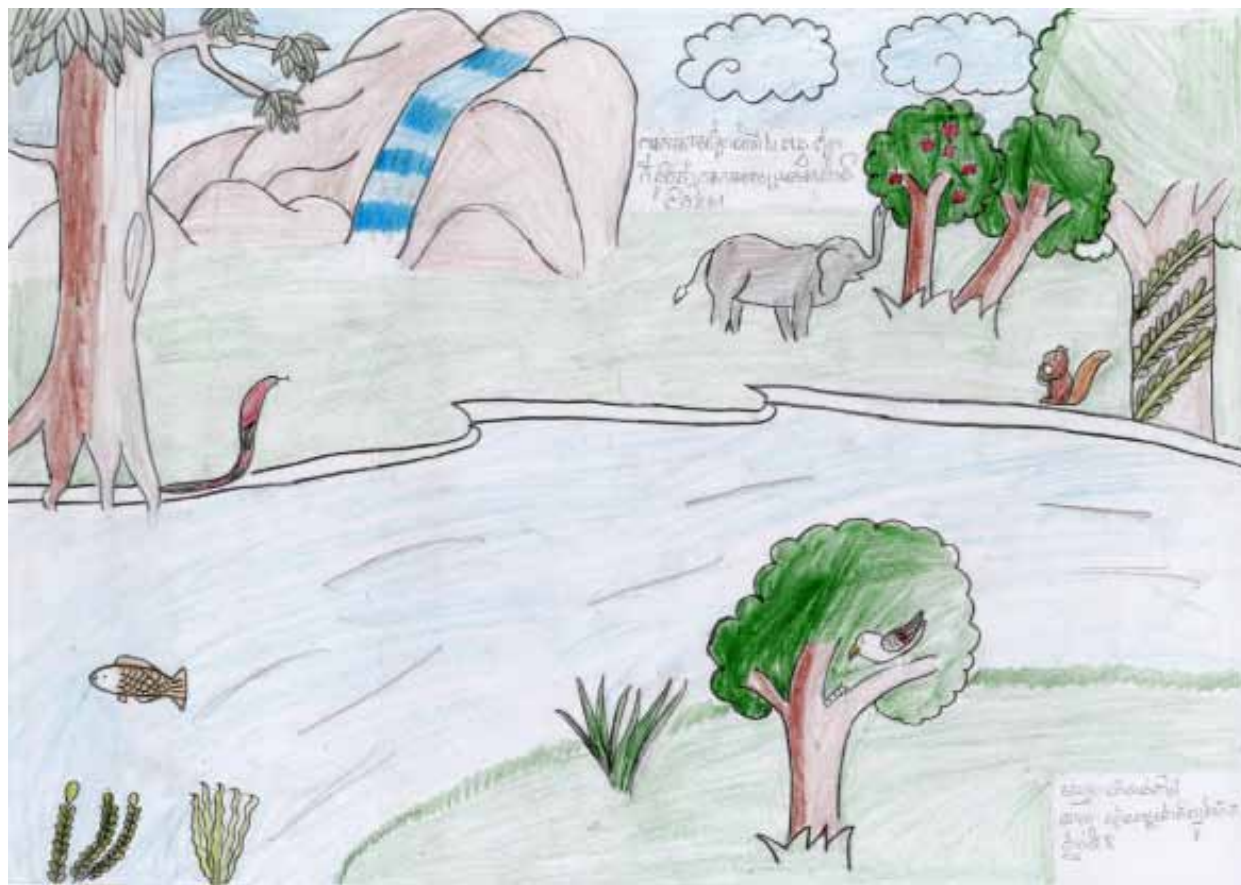


Chhorn Nara, 11 years old, from People Improvement Organization



Soth Navy Lom  
Age 13  
ព្រះបាទសីហនុ ៧ ទី១  
ស្ថាប័នសិក្សាស្រីសោយ  
៧ ខែ ១៩៩៩ ឆ្នាំ

Soth Navy, 13 years old, from Tuol Tom Pong high school



Ya Chandara, 13 years old, New York International School



Dol Saphan Noeun, 14 years old, from  
People Improvement Organization



Chea Sok Heng, 13 years old, from People Improvement Organization



Chea Penh, 12 years old, from New Life for Children

*“We have to sustainably protect forests, so there will be more wildlife,” said Sotheara Thai, 12 year-old schoolchild.*



Lang So Me, 13 years old, from Westline School and lives in New Life for Children



Chou Srey Phea, 12 years old, from  
Toul Tom Pong high school



Von Naweem, 11 years old, from Wat San Som Kosal primary school



Chhin Phireu, 12 years old, from Sovann Komar organization

**Cambodian School Children  
From 7 to 11 Years Old**

## **Sovann Nimith Woody, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner**

My name is Sovann Nimith Woody. I'm a 5th grader at Beltei Institution. I'm 10 years old. I've been living in Sovann Komar for over 10 years now. I was born in Prey Veng province. I want to be a karate instructor and artist in the future. My drawing depicts the protection of forests and wildlife.



Sovann Nimith Woody, 10 years old,  
from Sovann Komar organization

## **Ratana Borisak, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner**

Ratana Borisak: That picture means I want to live with nature, and take care of wild animals. I want to be soldier in the future.



Ratana Borisak, 7 years old, from  
Kolap 1 primary school

## **Lam Soy Try, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winner**

Lam Soy Try was born on 08 September 2003. He is now studying in grade 5 at Beltei International Institution. He is one of three siblings, he has an older sister, and a younger sister. In his free time, he likes drawing and reading books. His dream is to be an outstanding engineer.

He commented: “In the drawing, I would like to highlight a story of deer grazing in the forests”.



Lam Soy Try, 10 years old,  
from Beltei International  
Institute



Pann Noravorleak, 10 years old, from Chaktomuk primary school.



Soeun Ry No, 7 years old, from People Improvement Organization



Sovann Christopher, 9 years old, Beltei International Institute and lives in Sovann Komar organization



Sovann Hong Keith, 10 years old,  
from Sovann Komar organization



Polin Sovilya

*“Forests play a very important role for human beings and nature in this world,” said Chou Srey Phea, 12 year-old schoolchild.*





Sok Mey Chou, 9 years old, from  
People Improvement Organization



Sereywath Wathanak



Sovann Samphors Elina,  
9 years old, from Beltei  
International Institute and  
lives in Sovann Komar  
organization



Heng Chanthly, 7 years old, from  
Wat San Som Kosal primary school



Khun Panha Sak, 7 years old, from  
Santhormok primary school

*“If forests are well managed, there will be more wildlife and natural resources. Our lives will also be better because we mainly depend on them to survive,” said Mrs. Khveurv Phyeurth.*



## **Khveurv Phyeurth's Understanding of REDD+**

“Emissions from Industrialized countries can be absorbed by the forest in our country, Cambodia”, said Khveurv Phyeurth, a 45-year-old mother of four from Andoung Krroleng village, Mondulkiri province.

Mrs. Khveurv Phyeurth is one of the only four female committee members among the thirteen who are in charge of land titling for indigenous peoples of Andoung Krroleng village. She, along with others, has shown much interest in REDD+, participating in various seminars, workshops, lectures, and activities organized by organizations like the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). WCS has been carrying out an awareness raising campaign in two pilot areas: Seima (Mondulkiri) and Kulen Promtep (Preah Vihear), Cambodia.

Mrs. Khveurv Phyeurth plays a major role in disseminating information she has gained to her fellow people as well as returning feedback to the WCS programme.

She told the program how much she has noticed the changes in climate due to the loss of forest, and how it affects cultivation patterns, and has led to deteriorating yields for her people. The forest is no longer as beautiful; foraging is becoming harder, and so is her livelihood.

As put by Mrs. Khveurv Phyeurth, there is very little, if anything, that her people can do about the illegal logging when those behind it are high-ranking people. But against all odds, Mrs. Khveurv Phyeurth retains much hope in the programme.

She said, “...But I believe that implementation of REDD+ will surely help improve our forest, and along the way our livelihood. We are determined to participate, to protect the forest because we believe when there is forest; there are natural resources, wildlife, and so much more that we and our descendants can once again rely upon.”

*“Forests play a very important role for human beings and nature in this world,” said Chou Srey Phea, 12 year-old schoolchild.*

*“Protecting our forests is protecting our nation,” said Ya Chandara, 13 year-old schoolchild.*

*“We have to sustainably protect forests, so there will be more wildlife,” said Sotheara Thai, 12 year-old schoolchild.*

*“Nature is all around my village,” said Seam Chantrea, 11 year-old schoolchild.*

*“Forest degradation is changing our life. We need to protect our traditions, lifestyle, and customs for the next generation,” said one representative of the Indigenous Peoples’ group.*

*“Be part of efforts to protect our forests,” said Sovann Vireak Luccas, 11 year-old schoolchild.*

*“Protecting forests and wildlife is protecting the environment,” said Sour Sovan Panhavoin, 13 year-old schoolchild.*

*“We need to protect natural forests and mountains because they are shelters for all people and animals,” said Khun Rithy Pong, 14 year-old schoolchild.*





*“I like trees and forests because they can attract animals and also tourists,” said Sovann Vanna Colyn, 12 year-old schoolchild.*



*“If forests are well managed, there will be more wildlife and natural resources. Our lives will also better because we mainly depend on them to survive,” said Mrs. Kh-veurv Phyeurth.*



*“Protecting forests and animals for the benefit of the nation,” said Mao Van Yuth, 14 year-old schoolchild.*



*“We shall not cut forests and hunt animals,” said Sovann Lionel, 12 year-old schoolchild.*

*“Together we can protect forests and animals,” said Nheb Channat, 13 year-old schoolchild.*



*“People need homes, animals need forests, so please don’t deforest natural forests. We love them; they love us. Share our heart together,” said Hay Rothrithya, 13 year-old schoolchild.*

## Acknowledgement

The Cambodia REDD+ Programme would like to acknowledge the following contributors:

- The UN-REDD Programme, which provided financial support for the competition
- The REDD+ Taskforce Members who always support initiatives to promote REDD+
- Smart Axiata/Cambodia, which is providing financial support both for the drawing competition and concert event
- The NGO Forum on Cambodia, East-West Management Institute, Fauna and Flora International, and NTFP-EP, who were co-organizers of the event
- The “Photography Team” for coordinating the competition process
- The “Outreach Team” for publicizing the drawing competition
- Ms. Thy Heang, Communications Officer of the REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat, who organized the competition and arrangement of the event



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